

10/529432

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PATENT
38195.64

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re. application of : Kanji TANAKA et al.	International Application No.: PCT/JP03/012305
Serial No.: Unknown	International Filing Date: September 26, 2003
Filed: Concurrently herewith	
For: BINDING DEVICE	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, and in recognition of his duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office relevant information known to be material to patentability, Applicants herewith submit a copy of prior art reference nos. 2 and 3, JP 2000-052680 and JP 10-337988, listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Prior art reference nos. 1 and 2, U.S. 5,286,128 and JP 2000-052680, were cited in the attached International Search Report for PCT Application No. PCT/JP03/012305.

The relevance of the prior art reference no. 3, JP 10-337988, is discussed on page 1 of the specification.

Applicants have not included a copy of the U.S. Patent No. 5,286,128 (reference no. 1) because it is no longer required.

The statement is not a representation that all of the information cited is necessarily effective as prior art against the application.

Applicant respectfully requests that the disclosed references be made of record in the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 25, 2005



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Substitute for form 1449/PTO

Complete if Known

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Application Number 10/529432
 Filing Date
 First Named Inventor Kanji TANAKA
 Art Unit
 Examiner Name
 Attorney Docket Number 38195.64

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM -YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	5,286,128	02/1994	Gillum	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ Number-Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM -YYYY	Country of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
	2	JP 2000-052680 (English abstract and machine translation)	02/2000	JAPAN		X
	3	JP 10-337988 (English abstract and machine translation)	12/1998	JAPAN		X

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether of not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered, include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Abstract is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14.